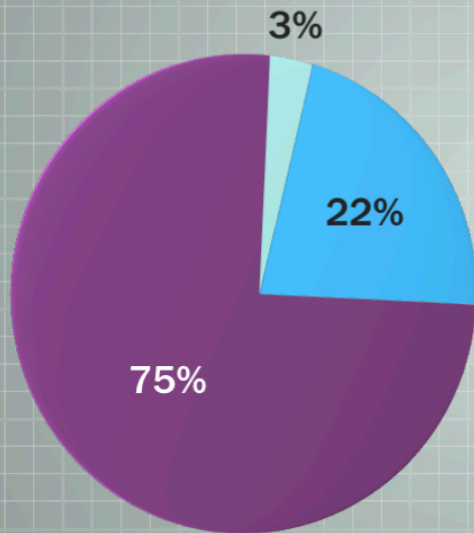


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of March 19*

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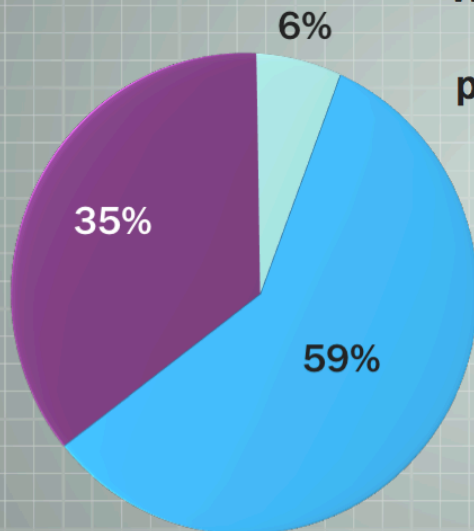
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE



Should state officeholders be allowed to collect retirement while they're still in office?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

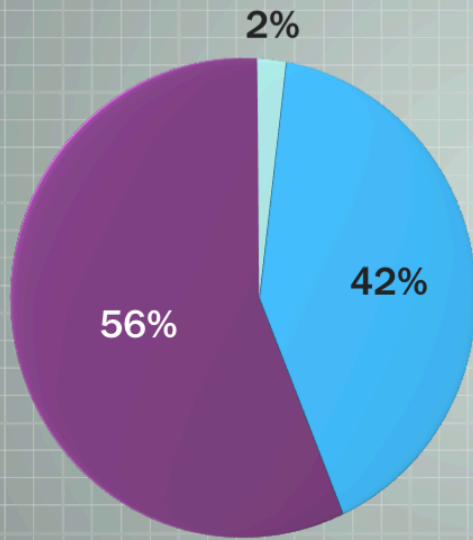
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE



Will shutting off state funding for Planned Parenthood have any political repercussions in Texas?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

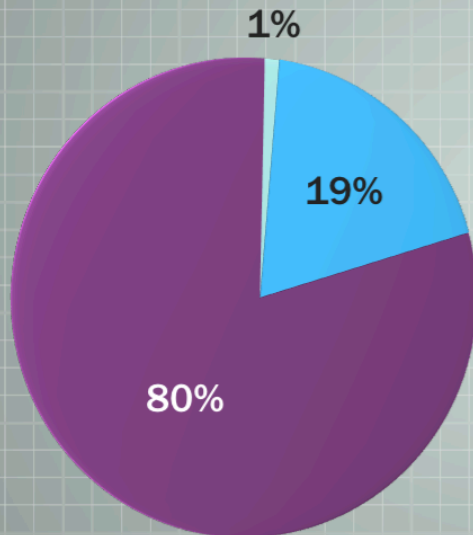
INSIDE INTELLIGENCE



Do you support term limits
for the governor and other
statewide officials?

● Yes
● No
● Don't know

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE



Do you support term limits
for Texas legislators?

● Yes
● No
● Don't know

Will shutting off state funding for Planned Parenthood have any political repercussions in Texas?

• "The pundits will rumble about it, but it will not change the outcome of any Texas race."

• "The only ones who care are already involved on the far left or the far right."

• "The middle pay for everything and don't believe that women will go with out any care."

• "Women have a tendency to remember in the voting booth."

• "Far right loves it, even though will cost more in the long run."

• "It is part of the GOP's ongoing assault on women and will be a factor in swing districts locally."

• "Let the Austin crowd continue its gnashing of teeth. Everywhere else in Texas, this is either a non-issue or very low on the political 'what issues will decide how I vote' list."

• "Can't alienate suburban moms."

• "Yes, more poor women will be denied birth control, have more babies, and health care costs will continue to increase dramatically. In a State where 1 of every 2 births is funded by Medicaid, we simply cannot afford this policy."

• "At the margins perhaps, but not really."

• "It certainly should. Let's hope this wakes up young women who are too young to know the health care difficulties of pre-Roe vs. Wade. It's even more absurd that men are

arguing against contraception while they can get their Viagra covered by insurance. Cretins!"

• "Planned Parenthood will lose in Texas as long as the debate is about abortions. We are a red state. End of story."

• "Many women are put off by the rhetoric and will likely offset many of their husbands votes."

• "May be a potent issue in a few 'swing' districts, but not much impact across partisan lines. It will fit the broad national theme the Democrats are framing as a war on women."

• "Republican women are waking up to what's going on and I expect they will hold their elected officials accountable."

• "It could be an issue to revive Democratic women."

• "At some point, pro-choice Republican women will have to pick a side."

• "It will help mobilize women voters who oppose the attack on Planned Parenthood."

• "Nothing but positive points to be made by bashing them."

• "It SHOULD, but many of the women served by PP who will be cut off the health insurance program are not the type who will call, write or stand up for themselves. This is why these programs are being targeted."

They support poor, low-income women who are NOT the large portion of the GOP voters in this state!"

- "Texans are ready for elected officials to DO the right CONSERVATIVE thing."
- "Will crank up the base on both sides of the issue." About 30 percent of GOP women will secretly vote Republican."
- "It will rouse and drive some independent women into the Democratic coalition."
- "There will be a few marches on the Capitol. The outraged media will do in-depth reporting around the state that will seem to show that this is a tragedy for poor women, but most folks know that there are already other and better options providing low-cost community-based health care services for women without letting abortion providers do it. In addition, Planned Parenthood's fundraising will skyrocket as a result of this ""attack"" from the right, and they'll be able to operate their clinics without government funding, which is all anyone is asking."
- "Good for Republicans. They can actually show results to the pro-life community and will be able to improve pro-life voter turnout. Bad for Democrats. They can't take care of their base vote. It will hurt turnout."
- "There is ZERO chance of a pro-abortion legislature in the next session. There is nothing to motivate the Democrat pro-abortion base from

turning out. They lost and there is nothing they can do about it."

- "The strong advocates on this issue are already strongly aligned on one side of the issue or the other."
- "Planned Parenthood is run amok. If someone as respectable as Claudia Stravato disassociates herself from PP then you know things are out of control. It might force them to rethink their organization and real purpose."
- "Maybe in one or two swing House races."
- "We are going to have to make up the federal dollars. The money is going to come from where?"
- "It may affect competitive suburban legislative races, to the extent they exist."
- "Hopefully will wake up the people who depend on these services for themselves or someone they know and get them speaking out to our legislators. The red state as it is doesn't want women to have reproductive rights, but these actions will polarize the public and maybe give a stronger voice to women who want these rights."
- "Hopefully it get younger Texans out to vote and will help get a meaningful chunk of independent women back in the D column. Has also helped to energize the D base."
- "Democrats will be helped marginally, since this is a GOP overreach similar to the excessive Medicaid cutbacks in 2003."

- "Will be seen as anti-female and the resulting negative polling among independent voters, particularly women, will lead to a rethinking of the policy."

- "This will help move independents away from Republicans. Losing \$30 million for birth control and other women's health issues for the poor will be seen as poor judgment and not related to the abortion issue."

- "I would strongly suspect that a strong majority in TX support defunding Planned Parenthood."

- "There is no middle ground on this."

- "The women's vote in Texas as a share of the overall vote will certainly increase, and it already outweighs the male vote."

- "It's a great campaign issue for both sides. The pro-life crowd can talk about how their efforts are cutting Planned Parenthood funding, and the pro-choice crowd can talk about how the pro-choice folks shouldn't let their guard down."

- "Yes, but only in a minor way in a handful of suburban districts."

Should state officeholders be able to collect retirement while they're still in office?

- "They should be allowed to collect what they earned. No matter political party, gender or sexual orientation."

- "Yes, but no one except full-time officeholders should qualify for pensions. Why do part-time legislators qualify for pensions? What other part-time job comes with a pension?"

- "It's just BAD OPTICS."

- "How could anybody answer 'yes' to this?"

- "If earned according to the rules, why not?"

- "Should we even be discussing this question? Here is a prime example of why the public has lost its faith in the electoral process and elected officials."

- "Not without leaving that office or being re-elected."

- "Especially state legislators. They don't get paid a true salary, so this really should not be an issue for them."

- "This is flat wrong and is why the public distrusts government."

- "It's beyond the pale to think they could."

- "Some issues strike me as useful. This one actually makes me mad."

- "Just purely politically, it's awful. It is the reason behind the little-known legislator / district judge lovefest, and why would you want to call attention to it while you're still in office and might want to help your ol' judge friends out one more time?"

- "It always amazes me that elected officials are quick to point to running government ""like a business,"" but in the business world, I cannot take my retirement until I RETIRE! Of course Gov. Perry would not know that, as he has NEVER held any job outside of government!"
- "Uncover the link between retirement for state reps and judges."
- "If there is a break in service and the officeholder earns their retirement but comes back to be elected again, that would appear to be okay. Without taking a break, it appears to be something that would be unpalatable to the regular taxpayer/citizen."
- "We should pay legislators a decent salary so they aren't so desperate for the pension and ""outside"" business opportunities. It's really pathetic to watch."
- "Not without greater transparency, disclosure."
- "We should end the retirement system for officeholders altogether."
- "The only reason this outrage is allowed is that voters didn't know about it. As voters learn that legislators are doing it — added to the fact that they are earning pensions based on six-figure judicial salaries — and it will be torches and pitchforks in front of the Capitol. Watch for this gravy train to be sunsetted in the next session."
- "HELL no. Not just office-holders either, state employees should also be barred from doing so. It's called 'retirement' for a reason."
- "It doesn't pass the smell test."
- "Let me get mine, first. Then, no more of this outrage."
- "Double dipping."
- "If we're paying them to work for us, they aren't exactly 'retired.' The Lege shut teachers down from being able to do this exact same thing years ago."
- "This is an outrage that ought to be fully vetted and publicized. And corrected. In the meantime, everyone who is collecting retirement on the job should be identified, immediately."
- "Why in the name of all that's holy would you consider this question worth asking? Must you always be setting your relevance bar ever lower?"
- "No and yes. Yes for legislators and the LG. No for everyone else."
- "Yes, if the retirement is not government related. Otherwise, no."
- "Officeholders should be allowed to collect retirement while in office, but voters must hold all officeholders accountable for their sundry and various hypocrisies."
- "No person on a public retirement should be allowed to collect retirement while continuing to work for a government agency of any type."f
- "They shouldn't be able to collect retirement from the job they currently hold, but if they're collecting pension checks because they're retired teachers or firefighters, I'm OK with it."

Do you support term limits for the governor and other statewide elected officials?

- "Speaker and governor only. Others don't have the same dynamics. Lieutenant governor has limited appointment powers."
- "If it's good enough for the Office of President, it should be good enough for other states."
- "Our current governor should have left office at least a term ago."
- "Governor should be limited to two terms."
- "You may not like Rick Perry (on the right) or Lloyd Doggett (on the left), but both keep getting elected by those who vote. Term limits undermine that constituency voice."
- "Two four-year terms, as in most other states, would seem appropriate."
- "I didn't until Perry decided he wanted to be governor for life."
- "Dictatorships suck, both to run the state and to run state agencies."
- "Elections are the term limits."
- "Two six-year terms should work for statewide officials."
- "Too much political ambition gets bottled-up when somebody overstay their office. On the other hand, except for governor and lieutenant governor, statewides have major operational responsibilities, which benefit from experienced leadership."
- "I didn't at one time, but I think the positives outweigh the negatives at this point."
- "How dare you suggest dear leader isn't fit to hold office for another 100 years!"
- "Like the U.S. presidents"
- "If we had term limits, we would have missed the enduring greatness of James Richard Perry. How, then, could the Republic be expected to survive?"
- "The executive branch has greater risk of potential for abuse, by definition."
- "The best term limit is found at the ballot box."
- "Voters historically have imposed their own term limits."
- "Yes, we need term limits in the executive branch."
- "No. If it ain't broke, don't fix it."
- "The system is not set up to have statewides stay around forever. Rick Perry shouldn't have every appointee on every board and commission in Texas."
- "If people don't like who is representing them, then they need to get engaged. When I hear Republicans pushing the idea of term limits, it cracks me up. Are they not the party of 'individual responsibility.' If so, are term limits not an abdication of individual responsibility?"

- "The only way to get better candidates and better officeholders is to get better voters."

- "Same reasoning, often you end up with a lazy electorate who allows people like Perry to stay in too long, without thinking about the damage he is doing and no recourse for it."

- "If you can't accomplish your goals in three terms, you are incapable of accomplishing them. New energy, new ideas and new staff are badly needed amongst current statewides."

- It takes awhile for them to figure out the concept of public interest.

- "Two successive terms"

- "We have term limits: elections. If the people choose not to limit the

terms of elected officials, that's their own fault."

- Term limits are determined at the ballot box.

- "I pine for the voters to throw the current crop of bums out. But, alas, the voters get to decide whether or not to ""limit"" a politician's term. And, we shouldn't arbitrarily restrict the voters' choices."

- "No, although I am rethinking that stance in light of Governor Perry, who has no doubt stayed too long."

- "But, if Perry runs again, I will totally change my mind."

- "For governor, for sure. He gets too much control of state agencies."

Do you support term limits for Texas legislators?

- "We have term limits. They're called elections."

- "But limits on speaker and governor offices would make sense. Since speaker has power of statewide, but citizens have little direct impact on their election, they should be limited. The governor should be limited so that agency and commission appointees maintain a healthy mix of autonomy from the governor's office. If we limited presidential terms, it makes sense to limit our top executive term."

- "Yes, if I can select the ones that should be term-limited. Otherwise, no, we don't need more inexperienced legislators."

- "This was a good idea in the 80's, 90's and is a great idea today. 30+ year citizen legislators? Come on..."

- "Elections serve as term limits."

- "I think term limits increase corruption and bad policy 'on the way out the door.'"

- "You can make a case that the lack of term limits contributes to a highly toxic, partisan climate."

- "The old adage is true: Election Day is the ultimate term limit. You don't like 'em (or what they've done), get rid of 'em."

- "Institutional history is critical to solve major issues."

- "Elections are the term limits."
- "Term limits on any officeholders are just plain stupid."
- "The staff already has too much influence. Why put them totally in charge?"
- "Six two-year terms for a state rep, and two six-year terms for a state senator should do the trick."
- "It's a lazy way to bring about change! VOTE!"
- "It's only a good idea if I can pick the ones to be termed."
- "I didn't at one time, but I think the positives outweigh the negatives at this point."
- "Term limits are bad in general. Let the voters decide."
- "They've been a disaster everywhere they've been tried, and you know we do everything bigger and better in Texas, including disasters."
- "If you want to limit their term, vote them out of office. Should an elected official no longer be "representative" of their district - find a qualified person to run against them. Then work hard to make sure they are elected."
- "Every election is a term limit."
- "The voters always have the option of voting someone out of office. The problem with term limits is that once someone learns the system and how to make a difference, they will be gone. There are no term limits for state agency personnel, so the only

power the citizens have is to have good people in office who can help them navigate agency issues and personnel. With term limits, they no longer have that power."

- "I support comprehensive campaign finance reform. If we drastically reduced the role of money in politics, more voters would impose term limits on deserving candidates through the ballot box. As it stands now, redistricting, the resulting primaries, and the overwhelming influence of special interests creates a rigged process. Voters know it. Just look at the electorate's participation rates."
- "Further empowers cartels, makes incumbents more reliant on their money and institutional memories."
- "The best term limit is found at the ballot box."
- "Term limits have dramatically weakened city councils around the state and are a terrible idea for legislators because the turnover would weaken the ability of the Legislature to do business. It takes a while to learn the job. Voters have demonstrated they are quite willing to vote folks of office if they become annoyed."
- "Term limits for the Texas Legislature is the ""Full Employment Act"" for political consultants!"
- "I didn't used to, but it may be the only way to break the partisanship."
- "No, term limits just create other problems. When in doubt, leave things alone."

- “And let the bureaucrats in state agencies run the show along with late 20-somethings in the Lege? People think Perry has too much power now. Imagine a governor who has no term limits at the helm running agencies as Perry has and kids managing the legislative process.”
- “No. Under term limits, the people with the least knowledge and experience make the biggest decisions.”
- “Could we have selective term limits?”
- “I’d rather see non-partisan redistricting than term limits.”
- “Should be held accountable sooner for their voting action.”
- “If you get too crazy (like CA), all the knowledge and power ends up in the lobby and staff. But setting a six-term or 10-term limit in each body makes sense.”
- “Observe how bad the junior clown acts with the incoming class from the 2010 election.”
- “Term limits should be decided by elections.”
- “Very bad idea. Texas legislators already have term limits.”
- “In a state that already has part-time legislators, term limits would only serve to increase the power and influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Austin.”
- “Legislators are already subject to term limits: those imposed by voters. No legislator can serve a minute longer than their constituents want them to serve.”
- “Institutional memory is the currency of the realm in legislative bodies. If you enact term limits, you hand the keys to the castle to the lobby.”
- “Term limits are determined at the ballot box.”
- “We have term limits. They are called elections.”
- “Bad idea. Bureaucrats would run state government.”
- “I support term limits for all statewide officeholders, except the judiciary.”

Our thanks to this week’s participants: Adam Haynes, Albert Hawkins, Alan Erwin, Allen Blakemore, Andrew Biar, Andy Sansom, Blaine Bull, Bee Moorhead, Bill Hammond, Billy Howe, Bradford Shields, Hugh Brady, Brandon Aghamalian, Bill Ratliff, Bryan Mayes, Bruce Gibson, Bruce Scott, Tom Duffy, Cathie Adams, Chris Britton, Cal Jillson, Clyde Alexander, Colin Strother, Craig Murphy, Christopher Shields, Dennis Speight, Dan Shelley, David Dunn, Dee Simpson, Daniel Gonzalez, Dominic Giarratani, Donald Lee, Mike McKinney, Elizabeth Christian, Robert Kepple, Ellen Williams, Elna Christopher, Eric Bearse, Ed Small, Gene Acuna, George Cofer, Gardner Pate, Harold Cook, Harold De Leon, Homero Lucero, Jack Erskine, James LeBas, Jim Henson, Robert Jara, Jason Sabo, Jason Johnson, Jay Arnold, John Colyandro, Jeff Eller, Pete

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